



Psychology 417		Tests & Individual Difference		Fall 2014
<b>Instructor:</b>	Kibeom Lee	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	SH 157	
<b>Phone:</b>	403-210-9469	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b>	Tue/Thu 12:30 – 1:45	
<b>Email:</b>	kibeom@ucalgary.ca	<b>TA</b>	Julie Choi	
<b>Office:</b>	Admin 220			
<b>Office Hours:</b>	TUE/THU 11:00 to 12:00			

### Course Description and Goals

An introduction to the theory and practice of psychological measurement. Topics include the following: the evaluation of reliability and validity in psychological tests; factor analysis; psychometric principles of test construction; commonly used tests of personality, mental abilities, and interests; contemporary issues related to the use and usefulness of psychological tests.

### Prerequisite

PSYC 312 - Experimental Design and Quantitative Methods for Psychology

### Textbook

See the required reading list appended in this course outline. A pdf copy of the readings can be available from the U of Calgary library.

### Evaluation

Component	% of grade	Date/Due Date
Open Book Exam	25 %	October 23
-Lecture and reading materials from Sep 9 to Oct 21		
Closed Book Exam	40 %	scheduled by registrar
- Short- and long-answer essay questions		
- All the assigned readings and lecture materials covered throughout the semester		
Group presentation	5 %	Various
More information to be provided on Sep 30		
Lab project: Test Construction and Item Analysis	25 %	December 4
Lab Attendance/Assignment	5 %	Various

### Department of Psychology Grade Distribution Policy

The distribution of grades in Psychology courses (the percentage of A grades, B grades, etc.) will be similar to the distribution of grades in other courses in the Faculty of Arts. The Department monitors the grade distributions of 200-, 300-, and 400-level courses in the Faculty to ensure that the grade distributions in Psychology courses are comparable. Based on these reviews, students can expect that 1) up to 30% of grades in 200- and 300-level psychology courses will be “A” grades (A+, A, and A-), and 2) up to 40% of grades 400-level psychology courses will be “A” grades.

### Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades

Psychology professors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

**A+ grade: *Exceptional Performance.*** An A+ grade indicates near perfect performance on multiple choice and short answer exams. For research papers/essays/course projects/presentations, an A+ grade is awarded for exceptional work deserving of special recognition and is therefore not a common grade.

**A, A- Range: *Excellent Performance.*** Superior understanding of course material. Written work is very strong in terms of critical and original thinking, content, organization, and the expression of ideas, and demonstrates student’s thorough knowledge of subject matter.

**B Range: *Good Performance.*** Above average understanding of course material. Written work shows evidence of critical thinking and attention to organization and editing but could be improved in form and/or content.

**C Range: *Satisfactory Performance.*** Adequate understanding of course material. Knowledge of basic concepts and terminology is demonstrated. Written work is satisfactory and meets essential requirements but could be improved significantly in form and content. Note: All prerequisites for courses offered by the Faculty of Arts must be met with a minimum grade of C-.

**D range: *Marginally meets standards.*** Minimal understanding of subject matter. Written work is marginally acceptable and meets basic requirements but requires substantial improvements in form and content. Student has not mastered course material at a level sufficient for advancement into more senior courses in the same or related subjects.

**F grade: *Course standards not met.*** Inadequate understanding of subject matter. Written work does not meet basic requirements. Student has not demonstrated knowledge of course material at a level sufficient for course credit.

### Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor’s discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades. To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down

to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

### Tentative Lecture Schedule

Date	Topic/Activity/Readings/Due Date	Due
T Sep 9	Course Introduction	
R Sep 11	Basis statistics	
T Sep 16	Basic statistics	
R Sep 18	Basic statistics	
T Sep 23	APA Style	Julie Choi
R Sep 25	Basic statistics/Reliability (Chapter about reliability in any psychological testing text books)	
T Sep 30	Reliability (Chapter about reliability in any psychological testing text books)	Sep 30: instruction for student presentation
R Oct 2	Reliability (Chapter about reliability in any psychological testing text books)	
T Oct 7	Validity (Chapters about validity in any psychological testing text books)	
R Oct 9	Validity (Chapters about validity in any psychological testing text books)	
T Oct 14	Ethics in Testing	Julie Choi
R Oct 16	Factor analysis	
T Oct 21	Factor analysis / Exam Review	
R Oct 23	<b>Open Book Exam ( 75 minutes)</b>	
T Oct 28	Test Construction /Item Analysis (Burisch article)	
R Oct 30	Test Construction /Item Analysis (Burisch article) Introduction to the Test Construction and Item Analysis Project (Handout)	
T Nov 4	Structure and Measurement of Personality (McCrae & John; Ashton and Lee, 2007)	
R Nov 6	Structure and Measurement of Personality (McCrae & John; Ashton and Lee, 2007)	
T Nov 11	Remembrance Day	No class
R Nov 13	Response set & Response Style (Jackson et al. article)	
T Nov 18	Response set & Response Style (Jackson et al. article)	
R Nov 20	Student Group Presentations	
T Nov 25	Student Group Presentations	
R Nov 27	Student Group Presentations	
T Dec 2	Student Group Presentations	
R Dec 4	Conclusion	Dec 4: Item Analysis Project due

## Readings

Burisch, M. (1984). Approaches to personality inventory construction: a comparison of merits. *American Psychologist*, *39*, 214-227.

McCrae, R. R., & John, O. P. (1992). An introduction to the Five-Factor Model and its applications. *Journal of Personality*, *60*, 175-215.

Ashton, M. C., & Lee, K. (2007). Empirical, theoretical, and practical advantages of the HEXACO model of personality structure. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, *11*, 150-166.

Lee, K. & Ashton, M. C. (2004). Psychometric properties of the HEXACO personality inventory. *Multivariate Behavioral Research*, *39*, 329-358.

Jackson, D. N., Wroblewski, V. R., & Ashton, M. C. (2000). The impact of faking on employment tests: Does forced-choice offer a solution? *Human Performance*, *13*, 371-388.

## Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class; no reappraisal of term work is permitted after the 15 days. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

## Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

## Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You

are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

### **Absence From A Test/Exam**

Makeup tests/exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test/exam for health reasons; the student will be required to pay any cost associated with this Statement. Students who miss a test/exam have 48 hours to contact the instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam.

### **Travel During Exams**

Consistent with University regulations, students are expected to be available to write scheduled exams at any time during the official December and April examination periods. Requests to write a make-up exam because of conflicting travel plans (e.g., flight bookings) will NOT be considered except under exceptional circumstances. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements.

### **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act**

The FOIP legislation disallows the practice of having student's retrieve tests and assignments from a public place. Therefore, tests and assignments may be returned to students during class/lab, or during office hours, or via the Department Office (Admin 255), or will be made available only for viewing during exam review sessions scheduled by the Department. Tests and assignments will be shredded after one year. Instructors should take care to not link students' names with their grades, UCIDs, or other FOIP-sensitive information.

### **Course Credits for Research Participation (Max 2% of final grade)**

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in Departmentally approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. **A maximum of two credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to the student's final grade. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation.** The demand for timeslots may exceed the supply in a given term. Thus, students are not guaranteed that there will be enough studies available to them to meet their credit requirements. Students should seek studies early in the term and should frequently check for open timeslots. Students can create an account and participate in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses is **Dec 5, 2014**

### **Evacuation Assembly Point**

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>  
Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

### **Student Organizations**

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 170 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

<b>Student Union VP Academic:</b>	Phone: 403-220-3911	<a href="mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca">suvpaca@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>Student Union Faculty Rep.:</b>	Phone: 403-220-3913	<a href="mailto:socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca">socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca</a>

### **Student Ombudsman's Office**

The Office of the Student Ombudsmen provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. The office can be reached at 403-220-6420 or [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca) (<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>).

### **Safewalk**

The safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus. This service is free and available 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year.  
Call 403-220-5333.

### **Important Dates**

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **Friday, September 19, 2014**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **Monday, September 22, 2014**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **December 5, 2014**.